

Governor

Pillen seeks a second term; rated Solid Republican. Lindstrom was disqualified as a nonpartisan and refiled under the America First Party; he polled 5–7% in October 2026 National Public Affairs surveys.

Brett Lindstrom

AMERICA FIRST PARTY · CHALLENGER

Former Republican state senator from Omaha (2015–2023) and financial adviser; 2022 GOP candidate for governor.

Jim Pillen

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Governor since 2023; veterinarian, hog producer and former University of Nebraska regent.

Lynne Walz

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former state senator from Fremont (2017–2025); former teacher, realtor and nonprofit worker.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

BRETT LINDSTROM

No public position found.

JIM PILLEN

No public position found.

LYNNE WALZ

No public position found.

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

BRETT LINDSTROM

Lists artificial intelligence among the issues in his “Nebraska Doctrine” platform; no detailed position found.

[1] Nebraska Examiner: Lindstrom selects America First Party

JIM PILLEN

Proposes eliminating tax incentives for “Big Tech data centers” and expanding community colleges and workforce housing.

[1] Pillen Playbook 2.0 (PDF)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedLB 415 (2025), changing provisions of the voter-approved Healthy Families and Workplaces (paid sick leave) Act

LYNNE WALZ

No public position found.

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* [Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

His “Nebraska Doctrine” platform focuses on property taxes and valuations, housing and economic development; says Pillen has pushed the state “to the brink of a fiscal crisis.”

[\[1\] Nebraska Examiner: Lindstrom selects America First Party](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 108 (2021), temporarily raising the SNAP gross income eligibility limit; final passage 33–11

Yes LB 108 (2021), motion to override Gov. Ricketts’ veto of SNAP eligibility expansion; succeeded 30–19

JIM PILLEN

Platform calls for property tax reform, cutting spending, eliminating state benefits for people here illegally and stopping hedge funds from buying homes.

[\[1\] Pillen Playbook 2.0 \(PDF\)](#)

LYNNE WALZ

Says property taxes are “too high” and relief should target working families, and that housing, child care, health care and groceries are too expensive.

[\[1\] Walz campaign priorities](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 108 (2021), temporarily raising the SNAP gross income eligibility limit; final passage 33–11

Yes LB 108 (2021), motion to override Gov. Ricketts’ veto of SNAP eligibility expansion; succeeded 30–19

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* [Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 814 (2020), prohibiting dismemberment abortion; final passage 33–8

Yes LB 933 (2022), banning abortion upon reversal of Roe v. Wade; cloture motion, failed 31–15

JIM PILLEN

His 2026 platform pledges to “protect life.”

[\[1\] Pillen Playbook 2.0 \(PDF\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Signed LB 574 (2023), banning abortion after 12 weeks and restricting gender-transition care for minors

LYNNE WALZ

Says “our elected leaders should not be telling people how to live their lives”; her campaign site does not address abortion directly.

[\[1\] Walz campaign priorities](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 814 (2020), prohibiting dismemberment abortion; final passage 33–8

No LB 933 (2022), banning abortion upon reversal of Roe v. Wade; cloture motion, failed 31–15

No LB 574 (2023), banning abortion after 12 weeks and restricting gender-transition care for minors; final passage 33–15

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* [AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 268 (2015), repealing the death penalty; final passage 32–15

Yes LB 268 (2015), motion to override Gov. Ricketts’ veto of death penalty repeal; succeeded 30–19

JIM PILLEN

No public position found.

LYNNE WALZ

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV “Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.” [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 947 (2016), professional and commercial licenses for DACA recipients; final passage 33–11

Yes LB 947 (2016), motion to override Gov.

Ricketts’ veto of DACA professional licenses; succeeded 31–13

JIM PILLEN

Directed the State Patrol to partner with ICE and opened the “Cornhusker Clink” detention site, which he said is for criminals, not hardworking families; has said he is “100 percent opposed” to mass deportation.

[1] Flatwater Free Press: Pillen backs ICE crackdown

[2] AP: Nebraska announces ‘Cornhusker Clink’

LYNNE WALZ

No public position found.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.” [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 364 (2021), tax credits for donations funding private school scholarships; cloture motion, failed 29–18

Yes LB 364 (2022), second cloture motion on private school scholarship tax credits; failed 28–14

JIM PILLEN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Signed LB 753 (2023), Opportunity Scholarships Act — tax credits for private school scholarship donations

Signed LB 1402 (2024), state-funded private school scholarships replacing the Opportunity Scholarships Act

LYNNE WALZ

Lists school vouchers among issues Nebraskans have voted on and says, “When the voters speak, our job as representatives is to listen.”

[1] Ballotpedia: Lynne Walz

RECORD IN OFFICE

Did not vote LB 364 (2021), tax credits for donations funding private school scholarships; cloture motion, failed 29–18

No LB 753 (2023), Opportunity Scholarships Act — tax credits for private school scholarship donations; final passage 33–11

No LB 1402 (2024), state-funded private school scholarships replacing the Opportunity Scholarships Act; final passage 32–14

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV “We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.” [AP, Oct. 1, 2025](#)

BRETT LINDSTROM

Includes public power among his platform issues; no detailed environmental position found.

[1] Nebraska Examiner: Lindstrom selects America First Party

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 650 (2021), regulating geologic storage of carbon dioxide; final passage 48–1

JIM PILLEN

Platform pledges to protect the aquifer, eliminate toxins in water and food, and protect public power ratepayers.

[1] Pillen Playbook 2.0 (PDF)

LYNNE WALZ

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LB 650 (2021), regulating geologic storage of carbon dioxide; final passage 48–1

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